

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 12576 201510Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 EB-07 COME-00 FEAE-00 TRSE-00
 /090 W

----- 067993 /53

R 201155Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0524
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 12576

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IR
SUBJ: SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH BBC'S DIMBELEBY

1. BOTH DECEMBER 18 TEHRAN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS PUBLISHED
TEXT OF INTERVIEW GIVEN BY SHAH TO BBC'S DAVID DIMBELEBY DECEMBER
10. Q AND A CLOSELY RESEMBLES SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH MIKE WALLACE
IN MID-OCTOBER, WHICH PROBABLY EXPLAINS WHY IRANIANS RELEASED IT
TO BBC FOR DECEMBER 13 SHOW RATHER THAN WAITING CUSTOMARY TWO-
THREE WEEKS. TEXT OF INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.

2. SHAH REITERATED FAMILIAR THEMES--OIL PRICE INCREASE JUSTIFIED BY
40 PERCENT INFLATION IN WEST, STABILITY OF REGION DEPENDS ON AD-
EQUATE IRANIAN DEFENSE CAPABILITY, AND NECESSITY FOR PEOPLES'
PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SHAH SAID DIFFERENCES
OF OPINION EXIST BOTH IN PRESS AND IN RESURGENCE PARTY DEBATES.
HE DENIED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS AND
TORTURE, NOTING THAT THERE WERE ONLY 3,300 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN
IRAN, ALL MARXISTS. RE TORTURE, SHAH'S REPLY NOT GIVEN CORRECTLY
IN EITHER PAPER, CAUSING SOME CONFUSION. CORRECT RENDERING OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 12576 201510Z

Q AND A FROM BBC TRANSCRIPT FOLLOWS:
DIMBELEBY: ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE METHODS WHICH SAVAK USES TO
GET CONFESSIONS AND TO GET CONVICTIONS?
SHAH: THEY ARE IMPROVING MORE AND MORE EVERYDAY. YOU HAVE BEEN
ACCUSED OF TORTURING PEOPLE TOO.
DIMBELEBY: WE ARE NOT PROUD OF IT.

SHAH: WELL, WE ARE ALSO IMPROVING OUR SYSTEMS MORE AND MORE, AND WITH THE NEW METHODS IN LIE DETECTING AND OTHER THINGS IT BECOMES EASIER AND EASIER TO GET THE TRUTH, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO HAVE RE-COURSE TO WHAT IS ALLEGED. IT'S TRUE IT'S LESS, MUCH LESS THAN BEFORE--WHAT IS ALLEGED WE ARE DOING.

DIMBELEBY: BUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAYS THAT IT IS STILL A MATTER OF COURSE FOR SOMEBODY ARRESTED FOR A POLITICAL OFFENSE TO BE BEATEN UP BETWEEN THE TIME HE IS ARRESTED AND THE TIME HE COMES TO TRIAL.

SHAH: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

DIMBELEBY: DO YOU MEAN THAT THE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND MAL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS ARE WHOLLY FAKE, ARE BASED ON LIES SPREAD BY PEOPLE OR DO YOU ACCEPT THAT THERE MAY BE SOME INSTANCES OF IT?

SHAH: NOT ANYMORE, NOT FOR A LONG TIME.

DIMBELEBY: YOUR'RE CERTAIN OF THAT?

SHAH: YES, TODAY YES, FOR SOMETIME YES.

HELMS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN12576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760467-0039
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761227/aaaaawve.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH BBC'S DIMBELEBY
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006